

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 3 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. WASHINGTON POST REPORTED JUNE 3 THAT PENTAGON "PULLED BACK FROM WHITE HOUSE ASSERTION ON WEDNESDAY THAT DEPLOYING MARK 12A WARHEAD ATOP MINUTEMAN THREE ICBM WOULD GIVE US 'TEMPORARY ADVANTAGE' OVER SOVIET UNION IN STRATEGIC WEAPONRY." PENTAGON SPOKESMAN THOMAS B. ROSS, AT REGULAR NEWS BRIEFING, TOLD NEWSMEN PENTAGON'S "OVERALL JUDGMENT" IS THAT MARK 12A WARHEAD WOULD NOT BE THREAT TO MOST SOVIET LAND-BASED SILOS, WHILE THEIR FORCE MIGHT WELL BE THREAT TO OUR ENTIRE LAND-BASED FORCE. "IN ABSENCE OF BALANCED SALT AGREEMENT," ROSS SAID, "WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THIS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CURRENT SITUATION OF ROUGH EQUIVALENCE." IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, POST SAID, FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS ISSUED STATEMENT SIGNED BY ELEVEN ARMS SPECIALISTS URGING CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO DEFER CONTINUING WITH MINUTEMAN THREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
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TO AVOID "FORECLOSING FUTURE AGREEMENT" AT ARMS TALKS AND TO "PRESERVE OUR LEVERAGE AT THOSE NEGOTIATIONS."

2. KENNETH H. BACON, IN JUNE 3 WALL STREET JOURNAL, SAID PRESIDENT CARTER "WANTS TO MAINTAIN STRATEGIC PARITY THROUGH  
  
NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WITH SOVIETS, NOT BY ESCA-

LATING ARMS RACE. THUS, HE'S TIED FATE OF B-1 TO PROGRESS AT NEGOTIATING TABLE...CONGRESSIONAL EXPERT ON B-1 PREDICTS THAT MR. CARTER WILL APPROVE LIMITED PRODUCTION IN PART BECAUSE OF SLOW PROGRESS TOWARD NEW SALT AGREEMENT. PUTTING LIMIT ON PRODUCTION LIKELY WOULD MOLLIFY MANY CONGRESSIONAL OPPONENTS."

3. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT SENATOR WILLIAM PROXMIRE HAD QUESTIONED AIR FORCE CLAIMS OF SUCCESS FOR ITS 2.9 BILLION DOLLAR CRUISE MISSILE PROGRAM, NOTING SERIES OF FLIGHT TEST CRASHES AND NAVIGATION MISHAPS. PROXMIRE, ACCORDING TO UPI, SAID SUCH CLAIMS OF SUCCESSFUL TESTS DESPITE REPEATED MISHAPS ARE "CASE STUDY IN HOW TO SUCCEED IN WEAPONS BUSINESS WITHOUT EVEN FLYING." PROXMIRE SAID FIFTH AND SIXTH FLIGHT TESTS OF AIR-LAUNCHED MISSILE LAST YEAR ENDED IN CRASHES AND SEVENTH WAS POSTPONED. THREE NAVIGATION GUIDANCE TESTS IN 1976 WERE FAILURES AND FOURTH WAS CANCELLED, PROXMIRE ADDED. "TAXPAYER MAY WONDER WHETHER, ON BASIS OF SUCH FLIGHT TEST 'SUCCESSSES,' 2.9 BILLION DOLLAR CRUISE MISSILE PROGRAM IS BEING WELL MANAGED." VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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